

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**Gregory Scott  
Edward A. Garvey  
Joel Jacobs  
Marshall Johnson  
LeRoy Koppendrayar**

**Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner**

**In the Matter of a Request for Investigation  
of Northern States Power Company's  
Practices Regarding Energy Marketing and  
the Fuel Clause**

**ISSUE DATE: September 8, 2000**

**DOCKET NO. E-002/CI-00-415**

**ORDER ACCEPTING UPDATE AND  
REQUIRING A FURTHER REPORT OR  
UPDATE**

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

**On April 3, 2000, the Residential and Small Business Utilities Division of the Office of Attorney General (RUD-OAG) filed a request that the Commission initiate a summary investigation under Minn.Stat. § 216B.21 into Northern States Power Company's (NSP) automatic adjustment of its electric rates. The purpose of the investigation would be to determine whether NSP's practices related to costs included in its retail electric fuel adjustment clause and costs assigned to wholesale electric sales result in a rate that is just and reasonable.**

**On April 7, 2000, the Commission requested comments on this issue.**

**On April 27, 2000, comments were received from Minnesota Power, Dakota Electric, Legal Services Advocacy Project, Department of Commerce, Northern States Power, Office of Attorney General and Otter Tail Power.**

**On May 9, 2000 reply comments were received from Minnesota Power.**

**On May 10, 2000 reply comments were received from the RUD-OAG and Northern States Power.**

**On July 20, 2000, the Commission issued its ORDER REQUIRING PARTIES TO MEET AND FILE A REPORT OR UPDATE WITHIN 45 DAYS. This Order provided that the parties were to file a report or update with the Commission within 45 days from the date of the Order. The parties would have 30 days from the filing of the report to comment. The report was to include suggestions to improve monthly reporting to allow more effective monitoring of allocations to wholesale sales.**

**On July 27, 2000 the RUD-OAG requested that NSP provide to the RUD-OAG certain specific**

information. NSP and the RUD-OAG agreed that NSP would provide the information requested by September 13, 2000.

On August 21, 2000, NSP filed a letter with the Commission requesting that the August 21, 2000 letter serve as compliance with the Commission's Order of July 20, 2000 requiring a status report. The letter also included a request to file a report or additional update by October 30, 2000. The RUD-OAG concurred in NSP's requests. NSP indicated that there would not be further developments in this investigation until after the information requests are responded to on September 13, 2000.

On August 31, 2000, this matter came before the Commission.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Commission accepts the August 21, 2000 update submitted by NSP and agreed to by the RUD-OAG. The Commission finds the request by NSP and the RUD-OAG that the next report or update be due on October 30, 2000, reasonable. The parties have agreed to the production of requested information by September 13, 2000. There will be no significant developments until after the data is produced. For these reasons the Commission will order that the next report or update be due October 30, 2000. The parties shall have 30 days from the date of filing the report or update for comment.

### **ORDER**

1. The Commission accepts the August 21, 2000 update.
2. The parties shall file a report or update with the Commission by October 30, 2000. Interested persons shall have 30 days from the filing of the report or update to comment.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION**

**Burl W. Haar**  
Executive Secretary

**(S E A L)**

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